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New Buffalo Times

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Thursday, February 19, 2026

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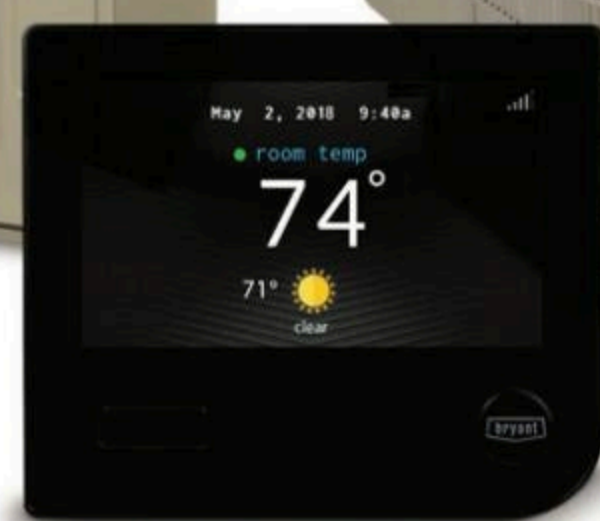
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Indiana could tighten ban on marijuana dispensary billboards

BY STAN MADDUX

Proposed legislation ordering billboards advertising marijuana dispensaries still up in Indiana be taken down is gaining traction at the statehouse.

A ban was imposed last year but many billboards promoting dispensaries remain because of billboard companies and marijuana shops entering into long term contracts prior to the ban, which went into effect on July 1, said State Representative Jim Pressel-R of Rolling Prairie.

However, Pressel said the U.S. Supreme Court and Indiana Supreme Court has ruled “you can’t have a contract for a criminal activity.”

Marijuana remains against the law in Indiana.

Pressel said the ruling reflected in House Bill 1200 means contracts between billboard providers and marijuana dispensaries signed prior to the ban are null and void.

“As long as it’s illegal in Indiana there is no binding contract that can be done,” he said.

The bill closing the loophole orders the signs be taken down before October 1.

Pressel, who helped push through last year’s ban, is now sponsoring the proposed legislation, which applies to billboards not covered by the previous restrictions.

Currently, the bill is before the state senate committee on Homeland Security and Transportation after passing out of the full house on February 2 by a slightly more than two to one margin.

Pressel also said he spoke to representatives and attorneys for Lamar Advertising Company, one of the largest billboard advertising providers statewide.

He said the firm has promised not to put up a legal challenge over the proposed legislation if it’s passed and signed into law by the governor.

“They would not litigate and would take them down,” he said.

He expects the bill to pass before this year’s legislative session is over at the end of this month.

Pressel continues to examine whether action can be taken to prohibit marijuana dispensary advertising on banners attached to airplanes flying over major events in the state.

He said it appears local governments have no jurisdiction over those matters because 500 feet or more above the ground is considered federal airspace.

Pressel, though, is looking into whether airplanes with such advertising can be penalized if they take off or land in Indiana.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY ANNOUNCED FOR KOHN PARK

The community is invited to celebrate the start of construction on Kohn Park with a groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the park site, located at 5844 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Michigan.

The ceremony will mark the official commencement of construction on the new park, a project made possible through strong community support, public-private collaboration, and grant funding. Given the winter season, the ceremony will be a brief outdoor program with short remarks followed by a ceremonial groundbreaking.

Complimentary coffee will be provided by Infusco Coffee for those in attendance.

“Kohn Park represents a meaningful investment in our community, by our community. It will be a welcoming, accessible space that will serve residents and visitors for years to come,” said David Bunte, township supervisor. “We’re excited to officially break ground and begin turning this vision into reality.”

Speakers at the ceremony will include township leadership, project partners, and representatives connected to the park’s legacy and regional impact. Community members are encouraged to attend, enjoy a warm cup of coffee, and help kick off this important next phase. — STAFF REPORTS

*Most people don't analyze
the truth of the lies the narcissist
spreads about you. Ha ha ha! 'F - - - you.'
What matters to me is what the wise believe.
— Dino N. Fatouros*

Local
Government
Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO

VANCE PRICE, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI,

KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE

City Council meets on the 3rd Monday

of each month at 6:30PM

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meets on the 1st Tuesday

of each month at 5:30PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD

HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT,

MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO,

BARBARA ANDERSON

Board meets on the 3rd Monday

of each month at 4PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets on the 1st Tuesday

of each month at 6:30PM

SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY

Sheriff, Chuck Heit

Undersheriff, Greg Sanders

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RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday

of every other month (odd)

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LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS,

DENISE CHURCHILL,

JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN,

STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG

The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th

Monday of each month at 6PM

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD

DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK,

LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN,

ARTHUR ANDERSON

Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd

Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets on the 1st Wednesday

of each month at 6:30PM

THREE OAKS

THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD

Meets on the 2nd Monday

of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD

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of each month at 7PM

GRAND BEACH

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST

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HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE,

ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR,

EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL

Meets on the 2nd Friday

of each month at 1PM

Chimaking Township Board approves Kohn Park contract

HEARS WATER AND SEWER UPDATES

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees approved a contract with LuAva Inc. for the Kohn Park construction at their Thursday, Feb. 12, meeting.

Supervisor David Bunte said they had received three bids and had the lowest one.

“They do have familiarity with our area and are familiar with projects similar,” he said.

For grant purposes, the board needed to approve the contract.

The construction start date is March 2.

Andrew Campbell, municipal advisor at Bendzinski and Co., gave a Water and Sewer Rate Study presentation and Capital Improvements Plans update.

Campbell said that the overall water is in “pretty good shape” and the budget has been “pretty static,” besides some increases in the past couple years with normal inflation.

The purchase from Lake Charter Township is over 50 percent of the budget, or \$1.1 million of the under \$2 million budget. The township is expecting those rates to increase at about 5 percent per year.

Overall, the water system is in good shape to handle capital improvements, which Campbell said they anticipate handling with cash, for the next five-plus years.

This year, Campbell said it’s expected that total revenues of the system will be north of \$2.3 million and operating expenditures are expected to be under \$2 million, which leaves a nonoperating revenue of \$375,00.

He said it’s recommended there be 3 percent increases per year “to maintain the momentum of funding and savings for capital improvements.”

A potential scenario would help the township “get meter ratios in line with AWWA (American Water Works Association) over the next 10 years,” as a customer of a 4-inch meter has a “much lower multiplier” in the township than what the AWWA recommends.

“There’s nothing wrong with the current rate structure, it just depends on how, going forward, do we make a small correction to that process over time of getting to the AWWA meter ratios over the next 10 years to where you’re more balancing how we get our current \$2.3 million revenues between the commercial and residential,” he said.

Campbell said the Galien River Sanitary District Sewer Authority changing its rate structure the past couple of years to “stabilize the authority’s system” and the GRSD changing its budget process to be a fixed budget has contributed to the sewer budget’s rapid change.

The I and I (inflow and infiltration) has hit Chikaming “much greater” in the last couple of years, which has significantly increased the budget that’s necessary to pay GRSD for treatment of the sewage.

“We’ve gone from a \$1 million budget to GRSD to \$1.4 million next year,” he said, adding that GRSD makes up two thirds of the budget.

The township has been making several improvements to analyze where the rainwater is coming from and how to remove it from the system, ensuring it doesn’t affect flow numbers.

Because of the GRSD’s increase in budget, he said there’s not enough cash out of the sewer fund to pay for improvements to Lift Station 12 and that an interfund loan between water and sewer may be necessary.

Campbell said the township could group the first five lift stations into one project and debt finance those and do the same for a second group a few years later.

Expected sewer revenues for this year are \$1.4 million, operating expenditures are \$1.8 million and non-operating revenues are -\$425,000, which is before capital improvements.

Campbell said sewer rates must reach \$70 within the next couple of years.

Board members accepted a proposal from AEP to change wood to composite on the poles along CSX tracks.

Annie Smith, external affairs manager with AEP, said that New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line Rebuild Project is scheduled to begin in early August and, at the longest, will end December 2027.

Smith said that the new poling would fit into the community desire for the power infrastructure to be “aesthetically pleasing,” as it’s brown and “mixes in really well.” The poles will also meet AEP’s “standards of reliability,” as they’re stronger and more resilient to weather and outdoor elements.

The poles would only be along the tracks behind Township Center, which head south to Lakeside.

Board members approved amending the SRO contract with River Valley to extend it to the end of the school year.

Power is dangerous unless you have humility. —Richard J. Daley

Board members approved a revised Pier Street Beach Public Access Proposal from Abonmarche, contingent upon approval from the Berrien County Road Department.

Bunte said the proposal was “strictly for the scope of the project,” which includes structural engineering, design of the dune, the existing structure and drainage, and not for any future construction of a new deck.

Board members approved the township collecting River Valley, Berrien RESA and Lake Michigan College (100%) and New Buffalo (50%) summer taxes.

Board members agreed to extend the contract with Kruggal Lawton for the 2026-2027 audit.

A request for a Riverside Cemetery parcel buyback, which would be 75 percent of the purchase price, or \$337.50, from Vernon Cain was approved.

Board members approved a request from the cemetery sexton to purchase a Kubota Front-End Loader and accessories for cemetery maintenance and an additional brush broom adaptor for clearing the sidewalks in the parks for \$44,500.

The appointment of Tyler Ream to finish the term of Natalie Brown, which ends March 31, 2028, on the Planning Commission was approved.



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Chikaming Township Board adopts short-term rental ordinance

ADOPTS RESOLUTION CAPPING SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSES

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees adopted a new short-term rental ordinance, with revisions, at a special meeting at the Chikaming Fire House Thursday, Feb. 12.

In December 2025, a nine-member committee, which included six community members, township attorney Charles Hilmer, police chief Todd Taylor and fire chief Allan Weich, formed to investigate STRs in the township.

Per a STR report that was posted online, the committee engaged in “multiple meetings,” during which they “conducted extensive research on available data, reviewed hundreds of pages of resident emails and testimony, reviewed notes from two special meetings, analyzed local short-term rental data and studied Michigan State University research and peer community models.”

“In response, the Committee recommends adopting a new, comprehensive STR ordinance and enforcement structure built around robust permitting, calibrated fees, clear operating standards, and a professionalized, data-driven program,” the report said.

The ordinance will go into effect no sooner than March 23 and will be posted on the township website.

Board members also adopted a resolution that establishes a cap of 550 short-term rental licenses, which will also go into effect March 23.

Per Item A under Section 11, the board “may establish, by resolution, a maximum limit on the number of short-term rental permits that may be approved by the Department pursuant to this Ordinance.”

The moratorium on new short-term rental licenses will be released at 9 a.m.

March 23.

As of that afternoon, Supervisor David Bunte said that 435 short-term rental permits “have been issued on renewals.”

Based on discussions from a special board meeting Feb. 5, the following revisions were made:

Item G under Section 4, “Registration,” will read that “upon any transfer of legal or equitable ownership of the Dwelling Unit or parcel for which a Short-Term Rental Permit has been issued, the Permit will automatically terminate on the date of transfer.”

Item B under Section 5, “Short-Term Rental Registration and Renewal Procedure,” will read that the “initial Registration Form shall be completed by the owner, and each subsequent annual renewal form must be completed by the owner or a designated local agent.”

Item B under Section 6, “Short-Term Rental Registration and Renewal Fees,” will read that “the base registration fee for a short-term rental shall be \$500 for a dwelling unit containing one bedroom. For each additional bedroom beyond the first, an incremental fee of \$250 per bedroom shall be imposed.”

Item C under Section 10, “General Standards,” will state that “private events at short-term rentals shall not be advertised, promoted, or otherwise marketed in any manner that would result in or reasonably be expected to result in attendance exceeding three times the maximum occupancy as established in Section 8(a). Private events at short-term rentals shall not be conducted on the premises of a short-term rental if the total number of persons in attendance, including all tenants and visitors, exceeds three times the maximum number of tenants.”

Regarding the budget, Supervisor David Bunte said that they “pulled back

a little bit” on the per bedroom unit rate from \$500 to \$250.

He added that they are not “looking for a revenue generator” but a “cost coverage” for its implementation.

“Whatever we decide upon to try to implement the programs, to try to implement the processes that we’re discussing with the changes in this ordinance - everything we’re trying to do is actually based on that,” he said, adding that there are “unknowns.”

Jason Sutton said that a cap should be a “reasonable number like 25 or 30 percent because 80 percent of these homes out here are second homes owners.”

Sutton added that “any rental permit should also be transferable.”

“If you make a rental permit nontransferable and you cap these properties, those properties of values go way up and then the young families you say you want here can’t buy,” he said.

Sutton added that multi-commercial use homes should not “pertain to STR permits,” since they’re on a highway and in a zoning area “where they should be able to do this.”

Tim O’Neil said that a cap could lead to a “diminution in value of \$55 to \$75 million easily by putting caps on here from people being afraid they won’t be able to rent.”

“Just think the massive amounts of wealth that will be lost by people who just bought, just rehabbed and suddenly they can’t rent,” he said.

Nichole Rairigh, who owns Neon Gelato in Union Pier, said that people in the area are “welcoming all of this renewed kind of energy in the area” as well as “how meaningful it’s been to have short-term rentals.”

She added a cap could eliminate this

“momentum.”

“The owners of these STRs are really good people and I don’t think they want in any way, shape or form want to have a community turned upside down with parties but I also know they’re hard working people and some of them are creating memories with their families that can only happen in terms of affordability if they supplement with rental income,” she said.

Richard Hoffman said a cap could “certainly impact people but the last thing I want to see is this area become New Buffalo.”

“That’s what I look at as my example if you have unchecked growth in an industry,” he said.

Dave Heyn asked if there could be “concessions for people that want to rent for a shorter amount of time,” such as two, three or six weeks, and that the “fee could limit that.”

Noting the small number of complaints, Donna DePaolo said that if “complaining was easier or more expeditious you might have more complaints.”

She added that there is a “distinction between people who own the houses as a second homeowner pre-retirement and rent out for certain weeks and people who are absentee and investment type renters.”

“I feel the latter may not respect the character of the neighborhood, the residents and that kind of thing,” DePaolo said.

Jen Johnson said that she has received “social media threats that have gotten very nasty” regarding the STR issue.

“You can put together this whole ordinance, can put a 5 percent cap on rentals, you can give me 1600 citations, and I don’t think any of this is going to get better until we’re nice and kind and start speaking to each other as human beings and as neighbors,” she said.

Village Council approves Makers and Merchants Alliance space renovations

BY THERESE DONNELLY

An old space in downtown Three Oaks is getting a new life and a new look, as the Village Council approved Three Oaks Makers and Merchants Alliance (TOMAMA)'s request to renovate their space at the village building at 21 N. Elm Street.

Speaking to the council at the council's Feb. 11 meeting, TOMAMA member Kim Pruitt explained the space had small rooms, which was useful when used by the Berrien County Health Department, but TOMAMA needs wider space. She added TOMAMA doesn't have full use of the space yet, as some of the unit is being used by the village for storage.

Village President Dan Faulkner said the Downtown Development Authority has removed its items and the DAR files will be moved soon.

The council approved the request and voted to approve half of the costs, up to \$1,400, for removal of two walls, a half wall and sink area, as well as debris removal and capping of electrical and plumbing connections.

As part of a project to make improvements on South Elm Street, the council passed a resolution to enter a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for work from the stoplight to the township line. Faulkner said some sidewalk improvements and ramp installation will be included in the project.

Councilmember John Kramer asked if the work was necessary for this particular section of the village. Faulkner said the state had performed an evaluation to determine what work needs to be done.

Under the contract, federal and state funding will cover a majority of the work, leaving the village responsible for about \$20,000.

Two downtown businesses, Viola Café at 102 N Elm and Alan Ray's at 105 N Elm, requested the council's support to apply for liquor licenses. Tom Schmidt, who told the council he is acting as a consultant for both applicants, explained Viola wants to add drink options to its menu and Alan Ray's will limit its license to the event space in the back half of the building and will not serve alcohol in its coffee shop.

Councilmembers questioned if two more liquor licenses are necessary for a relatively small downtown and suggested Alan Ray's could obtain special use licenses for individual events. Schmidt explained those licenses are limited to non-profit applicants.

The council voted to support both license applications, which now must go to the state for final approval.

The village is in the process of selling the lot at 112 N. Elm, currently used as a public parking space, to Thad and Bridget Verdun, who own the adjacent property at 114 N. Elm. The property cannot be accessed by vehicles without encroaching on the Verduns' property.

Village Attorney Charles Hilmer told the council he had received a proposed purchase agreement from the Verduns' attorney. Hilmer is looking over the agreement before it goes to the council.

Noting the loss of parking spaces with the sale, Faulkner presented the council with a downtown parking study proposed by the DDA.

Councilmember Becky Thomas challenged the suggestion the loss of five or six spaces would impact public parking and said most people are willing to walk a few blocks to a business. She stressed that she was not opposed to the study but did not like

linking it to the lot.

Councilmember Jason Niemzyk agreed, adding that foot traffic likely increased visits for businesses.

Village President Steve Graziano noted it was easy to identify problems with public parking, but "solutions might be harder."

The council approved the study, with costs not to exceed \$8500, contingent on the DDA identifying funding. Kramer opposed the study.

Stroll Three Oaks is in the process of branching off from the DDA and forming a 501(c)(3). Faulkner said organizers have approached the village asking for funding. He said once the group has documentation of its non-profit status, they will be able to apply for use of village parks and other spaces.

Property owners can now sign up online for the village's short-term rental permit waiting list. The iWork system is available through a link at threeoaksvillage.org.

The alarm system at the village water plant is in need of replacement. Project manager Andrew Shepherd explained the 20-year-old system relies on a dialer to alert water department employees of after-hours issues and it has been discovered the dialer sometimes does not work.

Councilmembers approved the purchase of a new system for \$7236.

Developers Allan Edwin Homes requested a letter of support from the council for their planned brownfield development near Schwark Road. The developers have said they plan to build "workforce housing" on the land.

The council approved the letter, noting if Berrien County approves the

plan, it will create a Tax Increment Funding.

Brownfield development repurposes land formerly used for industrial or commercial sites.

The council gave approval to add Village Clerk Kim Johnson's family to the employee health insurance coverage. Graziano said the employee handbook allows the addition of employees' families but requires a council vote. Faulkner explained the clerk and treasurer are both considered part-time positions in the village, but their weekly hours qualify them for insurance.

In his manager report, Faulkner said he had received several zoning ordinance violation reports in recent months, including complaints of the lights from Big C Lumber Yard. Faulkner said the zoning officer reported the lights meet ordinance requirements, but he was waiting to confirm this. He added Big C is had turned off "several lights" to reduce impact. Councilmember Lois Jones said the lights were originally intended for employee safety and were not planned for overnight use when originally presented to the Planning Commission.

The Hickory Street bridge is scheduled to close Feb. 23 for construction.

The council approved the Arbor Day 2025 proclamation, noting Arbor Day 2026 is coming soon. The Village has Tree City USA status and has had several tree planting events.

Police Chief Carl Krause reported he had met with a candidate for the police department. He said the candidate interviewed well and passed the written exam but would need to be sponsored through the academy.

City council considers options for fire protection

BY THERESE DONNELLY

As the number of city firefighters dwindles, the New Buffalo City Council is considering options for fire protection services in the city.

Possibilities include contracting service to New Buffalo Township, or cross-training police and other responders.

During the Feb. 17 council meeting, City Manager Darwin Watson explained there was a proposal to contract with New Buffalo Township Fire Department, which currently has an agreement to respond to every fire call in the city. He asked the council for their feedback.

“We’re at a crossroads right now,” he said, noting the city currently only has three volunteer fire fighters.

He added this is an issue small communities throughout the country are facing.

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Lijewski said he would like to see more documentation on the costs and benefits of the options before the council makes any decisions.

Mayor Vance Price said he would like to look into the possibility of hiring a few firefighters while also training police officers.

“My personal opinion is, if you’re going to be a firefighter, be a firefighter, if you’re going to be a police officer, be a police officer,” said Lijewski, and questioned the practicality of pulling police officers off streets to respond to fires.

The council agreed that public safety needed to be a top consideration.

Police Chief Rich Killips told the council if there is a decision, Berrien County is offering a firefighting course in the fall of 2026, and several city employees have expressed an interest.

Along with staffing, the council questioned the financial feasibility of the options. Councilmember Rich Knoll pointed out the city has a fire department building and equipment that would go unused if services were contracted out.

Earlier in the meeting, the council was presented with a request from

Acting Fire Chief Jamie Flick to purchase a super vac fan from Moses Fire Equipment, Inc. Flick explained the positive pressure ventilation fan is battery-powered, so the fire department can use it to remove smoke and toxic fumes from a building without introducing carbon monoxide from a gas-powered fan.

Councilmember Mark Robertson questioned the advisability of purchasing equipment before the future of the department has been decided. When asked, Flick said he believed a purchase could be arranged if the Township Department took over fire coverage for the city.

The council approved the \$5,273 purchase, with Robertson dissenting.

On the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the council approved a request from Indre Jurksaitis for a Special Use Permit for a short-term rental at her property at 105 East Water Street.

In preparation for various capital improvement projects planned for the city, the council approved an agreement for financial services from Bendzinski & Co. to conduct a rate study and financial analysis for work, which will include sidewalks, storm and sanitary sewer systems, and roads. The \$22,950 cost for the services will be shared across city departments.

The developers of Petite Acres asked the city for an agreement for community programming and crowdfunding. Watson explained when the development was first presented to the council, there was discussion of using the space for public events. Grants are available through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s Public Spaces Public Places initiative. In the request, Watson said the city would be required to act as the grant applicant and recipient and manage and distribute the funds. On Watson’s recommendation, the council denied the request due to the burden the grant administration would

place on city administrators.

The council amended its January resolution setting the 2026 beach parking fees to correct an error. The rates will go into effect April 1, 2026, as parking fees are assessed yearly on April 1.

Site plan reviews will cost more starting March 1. The current cost is \$350 per review, under the new plan, residential reviews will cost \$500 and commercial reviews cost \$700. Watson explained the increase will help ensure the administrative costs for reviews are not assumed by taxpayers.

In a separate action to ease administrative costs, the council approved a per parcel Property Tax Collection Fee. Watson told the council the city staff is responsible for administrative duties associated with tax collection, and the costs to manage this have increased. To offset these costs, the council voted to assess a fee of \$1.76 per parcel in winter and summer collections for New Buffalo Area Schools, \$0.88 per parcel in winter collection for Lake Michigan College and for Berrien RESA.

Watson told the council that, while there is a procedure on the Code of Ordinances to allow the city to collect unpaid utility bills in the annual taxes, there is currently no mechanism to address people applying for city permits, licenses or contracts while indebted to the city. As a way to correct this, the council had the first reading of an amendment to Section 1-9 of Chapter 1 of the Code of Ordinances that will provide the city with a means to collect outstanding property tax or other city costs before an applicant can receive approval for permits, contracts or licenses with the city.

The council had the second reading of two amendments to the Code of Ordinances. The amendment to Chapter 10, Article 4 will codify two Traffic Control Orders, one expanding three-

hour parking in the downtown and one governing street parking restrictions in the winter. The amendment to Chapter 12, Article 3, on the advice of Acting Chief Flick, will amend the open burning exceptions.

Watson presented the council with a list of the Planning Commission’s activities for the year and praised Commission Chair Deborah Schmidt and her fellow commissioners.

Watson asked the council for opinions on the possibility of allowing single-family residential properties in the General Commercial District. Robertson quickly objected, noting the council had spent two and a half years developing the current guidelines for the GCD and he had no interest in revising it now. The council agreed they did not want to allow residential properties. Non-conforming properties that existed prior to the creation of the GCD are permitted.

The council briefly discussed the possibility of starting regular meetings earlier. Price said 5:30 or earlier may not give many residents time to get off work and attend meetings, though Lijewski pointed out an earlier time would mean city staffers who need to attend meetings would not be forced to wait hours after finishing their regular work.

Meeting times are in the city charter and changing them would require a public vote.

Knoll updated the council on the Pokagon Fund, noting scholarship applications are due March 15 and the next mobile food pantry will be March 3 at Harbert Community Church. He said the Fund is supporting Exit 1 Events with a startup loan.

Price congratulated the police and fire departments for raising money for Special Olympics through the Polar Plunge.

He also said the recent townhall meeting had generated a lot of feedback and there are plans for a business-focused meeting March 14 and a second general meeting in April.

Trailers burglarized while semi drivers sleep in cabs

BY STAN MADDUX

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office is investigating a rash of products being stolen from semi-trailers broken into while the drivers are in their cabs sleeping beside a stretch of Interstate 94.

During Tuesday's regularly scheduled New Buffalo Township Board meeting, Lt. Thad Chartrand said there have been at least four such thefts reported to the sheriff's office over the past two weeks at the Michigan Welcome Center outside New Buffalo.

One of the cases involved the theft of about \$20,000 in various Lego kits.

He said it likely took multiple people working quietly to avoid waking up the drivers because of the effort involved in removing and loading products into other vehicles as quickly as possible.

"To have been able to unload that many kits, there must have been more than one person involved," he said.

Chartrand also said there's strong evidence that more trailers were entered but those suspected incidents, for whatever reason, have not been reported.

He said cargo thefts have been a problem elsewhere but it's happened on a much smaller scale in this area until recently.

"It seems to be hitting us all of a sudden," he said.

In each of the cases, police said the metal seals on the trailer doors were cut to allow the locked doors to open.

Once the doors are opened, the

suspects are able to find out what's inside and decide if the contents are something they want to take.

In one case, Chartrand said the driver told officers he felt his truck moving but stayed in the cab feeling it was from a rain storm packing strong winds during the heist.

"Unfortunately, it was from people in the back of his truck," he said.

According to police, taken another trailer attached to a parked semi was an undisclosed number of packages containing large beef tenderloins.

Chartrand said each package weighing 20 pounds were on their way to Canada to be cut into steaks.

The two other trailers contained merchandise from Walmart ordered online and Coca Cola products.

Investigators are waiting for the Michigan Department of Transportation to deliver surveillance camera video from the Welcome Center.

Chartrand said the hope is to obtain leads if the video contains any images of the crimes being committed.

The Welcome Center is being monitored more closely now in hopes of discouraging any more future thefts or catching perpetrators should they strike again.

"Our guys have been really diligent and spending a lot of time out there," he said.

In some cases, the drivers were not aware of the thefts until they arrived at their destinations and opened the trailers.

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Bison coast to victory over Dowagiac

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team improved to 12-8 on the season by cruising to victory at home over Dowagiac on Friday, Feb. 13.

The Bison leading by 12 points at halftime won 69-50.

"That was a good solid win. The game was never really in doubt from the beginning," said New Buffalo Head Coach Nate Tripp.

The Bison scored the first points of the game on short buckets from Colten Lijewski and Nick Haskins before Haskins after Dowagiac scored drained a three-point shot.

The lead grew to nine points following a lay-up from Lucas Forker and a short bank shot by Lijewski that went into the net.

In the third quarter, the Bison gradually extended the lead to 21 points on a lay-up from Brysun Perry.

Forker led the Bison with 22 points. Trevor James finished with 12 points while Lijewski added nine points and Haskins followed with eight points.

Tripp complimented the balanced scoring of his team and the play of Haskins who ran the offense for much of the time.

"Nick Haskins is becoming that player that we knew he was. He's just being a really nice piece to the offense. His defense has been quite tremendous as well," he said.

Tripp said he was pleased with how his team performed especially against a team from a larger school with several players over 6'3" in height.

"That didn't bother us. We did really well," he said.

He said the amount of turnovers his players committed was a little too much for his liking especially this late in the season.



From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Pitchers, catchers, and their teammates have reported. After this cold, cold winter, spring seems to want to arrive early and bring the 2026 baseball season along with it.

Long suffering White Sox fans are hopeful that their free agent acquisitions will lift the team out of the cellar and bring them back to respectability.

Cub fans are hoping they can finally catch and pass the Milwaukee Brewers and advance further in the playoffs.

This is the year for both teams to shine because next year the collective bargaining agreement ends and a strike or a lockout is a very real possibility.

Team owners seem to be united in their desire to install a salary cap and players seem equally united in their opposition.

I really hope that they figure out a solution. Far too many teams are unable to compete with the way things currently stand.

Let's return to the game and leave the business of baseball behind for the time being.

After decades of the rules of baseball remaining the same, things have been changing lately.

In 2023 the pitch clock was introduced and the games were 28 minutes shorter.

This year, another big rule change is coming. The ABS (automated ball strike system.) will be in effect all season. Each team will get two challenges to see if the umpire got the call right. If they win the challenge they get to challenge again.

I really like this rule change and feel confident that it will take some of the power out of the umpires

hands.

The White Sox signed Japanese slugger Munetaka Murataki to play first base for them and Austin Hayes to play the outfield. The continued improvement of shortstop Colson Montgomery and the teams ability to develop pitchers should help make the Sox competitive again.

The Cubs traded a couple of top minor leaguers for pitcher Edward Cabrera and they should have enough pitching to get through the season.

I personally hoped they could acquire another bullpen arm or two. What they did do was sign free agent third baseman Alex Bregman to a multi year deal. Signing Bergman was huge, as he is a great teammate and should help youngsters like Pete Crow Armstrong perform up to their capabilities.

I think the Cubs have a really good pitching staff, a great defense, and a solid offensive lineup, and it should be an a fun year on the north side of Chicago.

Speaking of fun, it's been nice to see Caleb Williams, Pete Crow Armstrong, Connor Bedard, and Matas Buzelis hanging around together. Being friends with young stars in different sports might actually help when it's time to sign a contract.

Olympic skiers are fearless. Wether they're hurtling downhill at a zillion mph or doing crazy flips in mid air, those girls and guys are awesome.

Stephen King said, "You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.



Forker reaches 1,000 career points for Bison in basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

ANew Buffalo High School boys' basketball player has become only the fifth Bison in history to score 1,000 points during his varsity career.

Senior Lucas Forker reached the milestone at home on Feb. 11 against Buchanan.

Forker was at the free throw line with two shots coming and just a seconds left in the game.

He hit the 1,000-point mark by making his first free throw attempt then sank his second free throw shot to force overtime.

Buchanan went on to win 57-55.

Forker said he was a little scared especially from having a chance to send the game into overtime but took a deep breath to try and relax before each free throw attempt.

He was still relishing the moment a few days later.

"It feels good. I worked pretty hard for this," he said.

Forker, a 6'4" center, received limited playing time when called up to the varsity as a freshman but he's been a starter and a force on the team from both sides of the court ever since.

Head Coach Nate Tripp said one major improvement for Forker is continuing to play after a bad call instead of pausing for a moment to complain or express disbelief.

"He's a lot more poised, a lot more under control and a lot more just willing to move on to the next play right away," he said.

Tripp said Forker also developed the ability to move with the ball to his left and right not just in the same direction to try and get into a better position to score or make a pass.

"That's a big improvement in his game. A very big improvement," he said.

Forker, who's averaging about 17



points a game this season, said he made reaching the milestone a goal after realizing he had to chance to do it after the end of last season.

He's been working hard to improve his game since making the varsity but dedicated even more time toward further developing his skills over the past year.

He increased his visits to the gym and was helped along the way by his father, Adam, and older brother, Zack, who are both former Bison basketball players.

They worked with him on things like foot work close to the rim to create a good shot when closely guarded.

"We were like on him every single day," said Zack.

They also had him attempt 200 to 300 shots per day during the summer and adjusted his shooting touch thrown off a bit from a shoulder injury he suffered in the eighth grade and reinjured the following year.

"It's really cool for Lucas. I'm happy for him," Zack said.

Lucas said he's hoping to continue playing basketball in college but hasn't chosen a school yet.

*It all depends on how we look at things,
and not how they are in themselves.*

— Carl Jung



Outside shooting key for Raiders in home birthday game

BY STAN MADDUX

Hot shooting helped carry the Red Arrow Raiders to an easy victory at home Tuesday in girls' high school basketball.

The Raiders defeated Fennville 44-21.

The hottest shooter was junior Emma Seifert, whose 17 points on her 17th birthday included five three-point shots.

It was most points Seifert had ever scored in a game.

"It was pretty exciting. Good way to have a 17th birthday,"

said Seifert, whose mother brought the team cupcakes after the game.

Head Coach Jason Alexander said the girls have been working on their shooting "and it paid off tonight," he said.

Sophomore Addison Lynch opened the game by nailing the first of 10 three-point shots made by the Raiders.

After junior Shyann Spaulding sank a short bank shot, Lynch hit two short bank shots of her own before junior Laney Strother nailed a three-

point shot from behind the top of the key.

Seifert then hit her first three point shot to make the score 15-0.

The lead grew to 18 points on a three-point shot from sophomore Rylee Rudolph before Fennville scored their first points with less than a minute to play in the first quarter.

Seifert hit the last of her three-point shots late in the fourth quarter to give the Raiders a 24-point lead.

The final bucket for the Raiders came from sophomore Lila Lugbill after a steal dribbling in from half court for a lay-up.

Strother, who sank two three-point shots, finished with 10 points.

Alexander said his players also played well on defense and did not let Fennville get back into the game after the strong start.

"I'm super proud of the way

we came out and played from the opening tip," he said.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for the Raiders, who improved to 6-9 and 5-1 in their division of the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference.

Their conference record was good enough for first place in their division.

The team held a banner declaring the Raiders champions in the division of their conference prior to the start of the game.





American rookie joins title-winning team with aim at gaining crucial experience

Zanella Racing is thrilled to confirm its sixth driver for this year's USF Juniors program, the first step on the USF Pro Championships by Continental Tire. American Jared Oselka has been confirmed to the program and the 19-year-old from Sarasota, Florida is ready to take the step up from karting, Formula FARA and YACademy Winter Series competition. Oselka will make his official USF Juniors debut with the team at the US Pro Championships Spring Training event at Homestead-Miami Speedway on February 16-18.

"Jared's been putting in the work and has been getting the crucial track time he needs to be in the fight when the USF Juniors series gets rolling at Homestead next week," offered Naka Zanella, Team Owner. "He's rapidly improving his pace and racecraft, so we're very excited for this season."

Oselka got his start in the sport through karting at the T4 Kartplex in Palmetto, Florida in 2023 and 2024. Jared turned his first laps in a race car at the Skip Barber Racing School early last year and then began a focused

testing and training program with Zanella Racing, logging considerable track time at Sebring International Raceway and Homestead-Miami Speedway. Oselka added a Formula FARA event to his resume as well and has also tested with the team at Carolina Motorsports Park in preparation for the USF Juniors event at the facility in April. He also raced in the YACademy Winter Series events at Sebring and Homestead last week and again showed solid pace.

"I'm excited to be with Zanella Racing for the 2026 season," Oselka added. "I look forward to improving my skills, working hard and getting results."

Oselka is the sixth USF Juniors driver to be confirmed by Zanella Racing to start the 2026 season, joining Maddie Colleran, Victor Couto, Max Mokarem, Leonardo Serravalle and Grant Mitchell.

The first official race of the 2026 USF Juniors season will take place next week as part of the annual USF Pro Championships 'Spring Training' event at Homestead-Miami Speedway on February 16-18. The tripleheader will be broadcast live on the USF Pro Championships YouTube channel.

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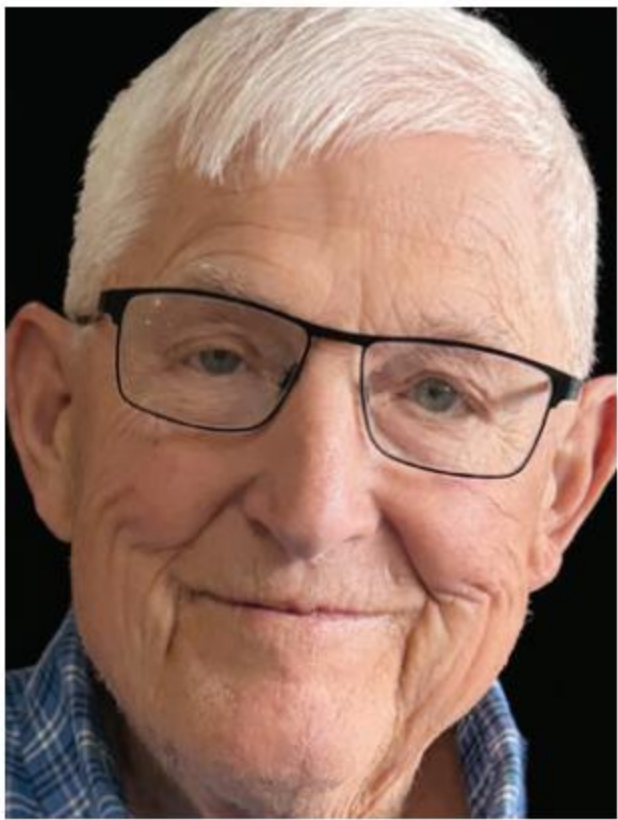
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OBITUARIES



Theron "Terry" or "T-Childs" Dyre Childs, III 1941-2026

Theron "Terry" or "T-Childs" Dyre Childs, III, 84, of Pullman, Michigan, died peacefully, Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Woodland Terrace in St. Joseph. His life began July 6, 1941 in Michigan City, Indiana, the oldest of three children born to Theron Childs, Jr. and Ruth Ramlow.

T-Childs grew up in Three Oaks and graduated from Three Oaks High School. He then proudly held a degree in business from Ferris State University, then went to start his own asphalt and paving business, Square Deal Paving. Terry was an avid skier and instructor in Aspen for a short time as well. He married Debbie Zemke in 1983 and was a loving step-father who shared a close and meaningful relationship with his step-daughters, who he cherished as his own even after they parted amicably. He was a friend to many and never met a stranger.

Terry will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by;three daughters, Nichole (Chad) Stewart of Bridgman, Michelle Tribett of Bridgman, Sara (Jason) Coleman of Baroda, four grandchildren, Karsyn Stewart, Cooper Stewart, Hannah Tribett, Logan Tribett, one

great grandson, Houston Brown, special friend and care-giver, Geralyn Waldschmidt, one niece, Carissa Gray-Sobol, and one nephew Joe Gray.He was preceded in death by his parents, a step-mother, Trudy Childs, one sister, Ann Gray, and one brother Jeff Childs. Family and friends will gather Friday, February 13, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 11:00 in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.Terry will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery. The family prefers contributions in memory of Terry be made to Casco United Methodist Church, 880 66th Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.



Diane Dorice Frale 1943-2026

Diane Dorice Frale, 82, of Niles, MI formerly of Harbert, MI, passes away on Friday – February 6, 2026. Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, has been entrusted with arrangements. Diane was born in Chicago, IL on March 15, 1943, the only child of Frederick John Frale and Madelene

Dorice Bruner. Diane graduated from Northern Illinois University and taught Physical Education for many years. Her career love was real estate. Diane renovated homes and resold them, before flipping was a thing. She worked in Chicago for many years and ultimately moved full time to Michigan where she continued selling real estate until her death. Diane liked to connect with people. She was active in her community and had many friends and colleagues. She was an avid golfer and loved to entertain. Diane loved animals and was a cat whisperer in many ways taking in and rehoming strays. She was a continuous supporter of the Humane Society. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.



Ruth Ann Zabel 1937-2026

Ruth Ann Zabel, 88, of Three Oaks, passed suddenly, Sunday, February 1, 2026, in the presence of her family. Her life began May 20, 1937 in Michigan City, Indiana the middle of three children born to Wilbur and Ruth Warren. She married Chuck Zabel July 17, 1954 in Three Oaks, Michigan. After sixty-nine years together he preceded her in death. Ruth Ann's whole life was her husband

and her family; selflessly caring for those around her. She cared for her parents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was dedicated to taking care of her husband, making sure he was happy, healthy, and well fed. Ruth Ann was very humble, thinking of others before herself. She was an avid baker, making cookies daily to share with her children, grandchildren, and Chuck and his customers. Ruth Ann attended all of the sports her children and grandchildren were involved in: baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, cross country, etc. She was proud of achieving her GED at forty, celebrating alongside her children when they graduated college. Ruth Ann will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by one daughter, Sheri (Vern) Watkins of Three Oaks, three sons, Terry (Linda) Zabel of Grand Rapids, Chuck (Tammy) Zabel of Three Oaks, and Denny (Valerie) Zabel of Three Oaks, ten grandchildren, Crystal, Kirsten, Tony, Keith, Kevin, Jan, Quinn, Melissa, Chelsea, and Nicole, and sixteen great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband, one sister Carol Conway and one brother Bruce Warren.

Honoring Ruth Ann's wishes, family and friends will gather Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Michigan Time for a graveside service in Posey Chapel Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest with her husband. The family prefers contributions in memory of Ruth Ann be made to Three Oaks Baseball Association, Post Office Box 104, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128 or to River Valley Sunshine Softball, 106 Chestnut Street, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message onlineat www.wagnercares.com.



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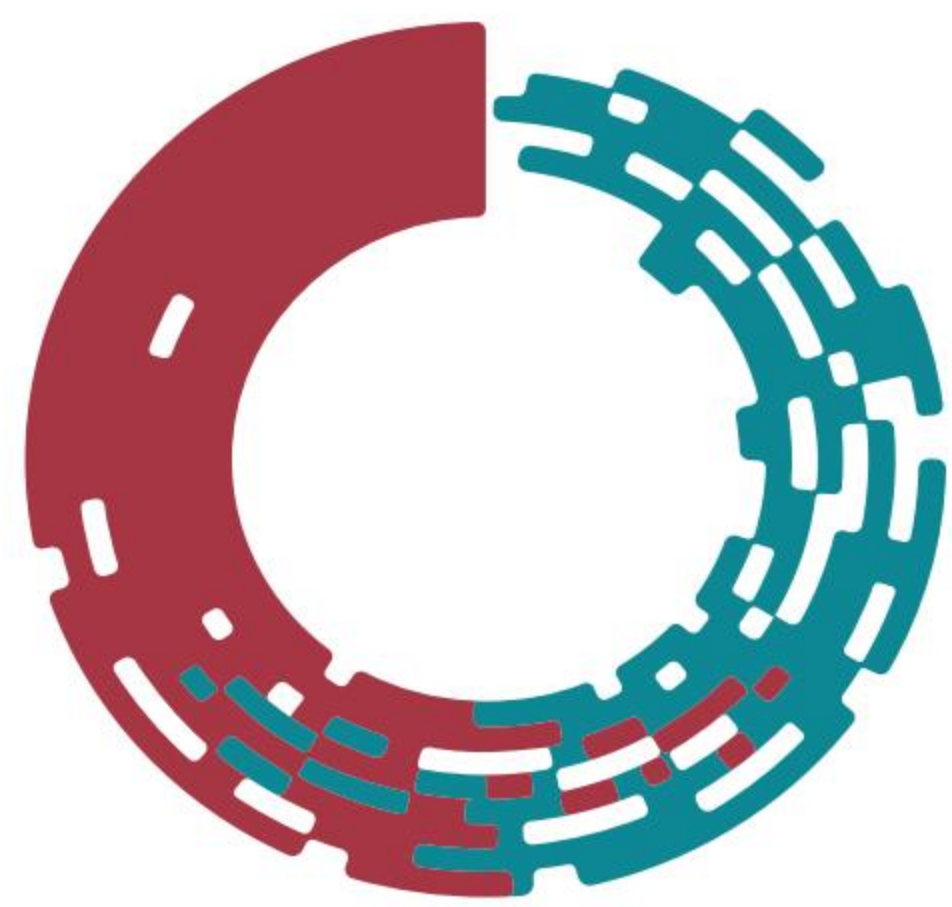
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Presentation on tap for new employer led customized apprenticeships

The Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce invites area employers to attend a free, one-hour public presentation at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at Commune + Market, 105 N Elm Street in Three Oaks.

The presentation will be presented by the Berrien Talent Collaborative and Lake Michigan College. Through collaboration, employers gain immediate access to emerging talent while investing in the long-term strength of their workforce and the broader Harbor Country community.

The brief presentation will cover the unique aspect of the new apprenticeship program whereby employers shape their own training and direct student's coursework to fulfill their own needs. Students are evaluated and held accountable as part of meaningful skill development. By connecting students seeking paid, on-the-job training with area businesses, the Collaborative helps reduce workforce vacancies while developing skilled, motivated graduates. All programs will be presented with special focus on the Culinary and Wine/

Viticulture. The agenda will identify what the program is, how employers can engage with program specifics and also highlight career and technical programs. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Speakers will be Barbara Craig – Lake Michigan College Director Resource Development, Jay Bauer - Director Berrien Talent Collaborative, Mark Frey – Supervisor of Youth Apprenticeships, Luis Amado, Chef – Department Chair, For Culinary Development and Kiya Simpson – Manager Welch Center. Culinary & Hospitality, Wine & Viticulture, Skilled Trades, Business & Professional, Technology (CIS), (IT), Health Services, Manufacturing, Criminal Justice is the full list of programs

Guests can enjoy offerings from Al and Ray's - Coffee Place, which will be open to purchase craft coffee, sandwiches, and fresh salads. Attend this session to learn how your business can participate, customize training, and develop talent that lasts. Registration is not required. — STAFF REPORTS

A Writer's Life... DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER



Entering Oz
If I thought Andy and my visit to CBS' Television City was like navigating CIA headquarters at Langley, then Lori and my arrival at Mattel's Corporate Offices & Headquarters was a trip to The Emerald City of Oz. CBS Television City oozed power. Mattel's Corporate Offices & Headquarters emanated magic.

Actually, Mattel's Corporate Offices & Headquarters were a combination of power and magic. There was no question about the heavy security presence at Mattel. There was the expected guardhouse and security dude as we approached the sprawling parking lot. We eventually found a spot just a short walk from the main entrance.

CBS certainly had its share of security, but it was pretty much in the background, just in case a random wacko showed up in hopes of forcing a meeting with CBS President Bud Grant to take issue with something in a Newhart or Murder She Wrote episode. At CBS, receptionists helmed the front desk, making sure visitors had an appointment and directing them where to go.

But here at Mattel, security guards were at the forefront. Overhead security cams abounded. I felt like we were being profiled. After we passed muster and our meeting appointment was verified, a burly guard grudgingly gave us coveted Visitors Badges that we were instructed to "wear at all times" as if we entering Fort Knox. In retrospect, it was a good analogy because, for the children's toy industry, Mattel was Fort Knox.

And we were just at Reception. It was going to get worse.

The burly security guard escorted

Lori and me into an elevator. He pressed the button for the third floor and the doors closed. All was silent, the guard looking straight ahead. For a split second I thought about lunging forward and pressing the button for the second floor. I looked at the guard and realized this was a guy with little or no sense of humor, so I decided against that questionable course of action.

The elevator doors opened and a well-dressed young woman (again, always a well-dressed young woman!) standing outside, almost blocking our way. She moved aside, letting us out, introducing herself as Kaaren's assistant. The security guard stayed in the elevator car, the doors closing, and I exhaled for the first time since we came to the reception desk.

The assistant said Kaaren and Debra were waiting in the conference room and she'd take us to them. As she led the way, Mattel transformed from being Langley to being The Emerald City of Oz, from being all about power to being all about magic.

The third floor was massive. There was a never ending maze of cubicles, each cubicle's walls high enough that the occupant couldn't see or talk to their neighbor and more importantly, I surmised, so no one could see what their neighbor was working on.

It's was silent as a tomb on the floor. Not a word, not a laugh to be heard. By comparison, DIC was always alive with chatter and laughter and people moving about all over the place and greeting each other. Still, somberness aside, this third floor at Mattel's Corporate Offices & Headquarters was magical because of what I saw sitting atop each and every cubicle.

Go ahead. Take a guess...



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AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19



The energy coming your way this week will increase your sensitivity to things that give you the sense of what needs to be done, changed or reconfigured within yourself. Pay attention and prepare to make changes over the next few weeks. Go time is just around the corner. Training starts now.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



Some of the things you may have hoped for or suspected will be cleared up or come to fruition now. This is a good time to sort out feelings and come to a place of understanding or compromise with emotional conflicts. Express those heartfelt emotions and get things off your chest.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21



Any intense situations or problematic attitudes will come to a head now. Even if you have to deal with explosive people, don't get discouraged. Their attitude will improve next month. Until then stay true to yourself and stay out of the way. Let them reach out to you next month.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



There are many strange happenings along the path now. This is the time to listen and pay attention to any signs or unusual ideas or experiences. Stories told by others may hold the key to the changes you are looking to make or the inspiration you need to go forward and achieve career and financial goals.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



Your services will be needed this week. Unfortunately, you may feel like it's more than you can handle or the effort you have to put forward may not be recognized or reciprocated. The issue may be further complicated by you own career commitments. Saying no may be difficult but necessary now.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



There may be some old baggage or ideas you are holding onto that may be blocking you from moving forward financially or trying new methods of handling cash. Early life experiences may need to be investigated to uncover where your ideas about wealth and prosperity were created.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



Strange situations will arise in the course of what you hope will be a normal work week. Pay attention as these unusual encounters will shed light on what kind of competition or standard you will be held to. This is the time to make alliances and get more involved in creating cohesion among your teammates.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



The way to move forward this week is to look at things that may have happened 20 years ago and see if that is what is still playing out today. You may have to wait until the end of the month before you can maneuver past the residuals of that past event. So, dive deep and look into the past.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



Financial issues are brewing which may make you feel like you can't do anything or go anywhere because your focus is on business and paperwork. Dig into your beliefs surrounding wealth and resources. Your way of thinking may be keeping you down. Clear out negativity and the seeds for future growth.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



You can expect to will encounter a lot of unusual information or communication with people that are not those you would consider a reliable source but this time there will be something to consider. Whether it's just gossip or seemingly irrelevant, pay attention there is a solution being presented here.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



If it seems like you are doing a lot for others and not taking time for yourself perhaps it is time to step back and evaluate that. The morning time is particularly important for you now. This is the time to charge up with good thoughts and positive visualizations. Be honest with yourself about your needs.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



There are things that need to be addressed at the work place or with service providers. Change may not come easy now but if you network and delegate tasks or spend some time researching new systems, you will be ready to introduce changes next month. Be patient and do the research.

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Sudoku
Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	6	8						
4				1			5	
2					9		6	7
			9				7	1
	2	5					9	6
	9		7		2			
	1				7	8		
6					8			
	8						4	9

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Two-horse chariot
 - 5 Accomplished
 - 8 Brow of a hill (Scot.)
 - 12 Norse giant
 - 13 Adopted son of Mohammed
 - 14 Consort of Siva
 - 15 Got
 - 17 Ship of the Argonauts
 - 18 Spelling contest
 - 19 Corset
 - 21 Mulberry of India
 - 22 Exclamation
 - 23 Stone hammer
 - 25 Heb. teacher
 - 28 Brief
 - 31 Monitor lizard
 - 32 His (Fr.)
 - 33 Range
 - 34 Wine
 - 36 Rom. author
 - 37 "Dies ____"
 - 38 Allow
- DOWN**

 - 39 Corporal (abbr.)
 - 41 Refute
 - 43 Afr. worm
 - 46 Hole
 - 48 Ram (2 words)
 - 50 Russ. range
 - 51 Yale student
 - 52 Cubitus
 - 53 Ten (pref.)
 - 54 Bosh
 - 55 Keg
- of Vishnu**

 - 10 Sea lettuce
 - 11 Biology (abbr.)
 - 16 Yahi tribe survivor
 - 20 "Casablanca" character
 - 22 Saul's army leader
- 24 Blue color
 - 25 Liquor
 - 26 Orinoco tributary
 - 27 Myth. lizard
 - 28 Grasp
 - 29 Kidney (pref.)
 - 30 About so
 - 32 Secret agent
 - 35 Science class
 - 36 Look narrowly
 - 38 Lawful
 - 39 Dressed
 - 40 Wan
 - 42 New sugarcane shoot
 - 43 "Cavallera Rusticana" heroine
 - 44 Possesses
 - 45 Biblical giants
 - 47 Inlet
 - 49 Duke (Fr.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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To know oneself is to study oneself in action
with another person. — Bruce Lee

Baiting deer to reduce crop losses proposed in Michigan

BY STAN MADDUX

Deer hunters would be allowed to use bait under proposed legislation in Michigan aimed at reducing the skyrocketing number of deer and the increasing amount of damage they’re causing to crops.

House Bill 4445 is now before the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture in the Senate after passing out of the full House by nearly a two to one vote.

The problem seems worse in southern Michigan where the number of deer over the past 40 years has increased from an estimated 200,000 to about one million, said Rep. Jennifer Wortz, a sponsor of the bill during her December speech before a House committee.

Wortz is a republican from Quincy just east of Coldwater about 15 miles north of the Indiana state line.

“The amount of crop damage that is happening in our community is rampant and the cost to farmers is very great,” she said.

The bill allows baiting in the Lower Peninsula during deer hunting seasons.

Currently, baiting is banned in the Lower Peninsula but allowed in the Upper Peninsula from September 15 to January 1 with limits on how much food can be set out for deer and spacing of the bait, according to the state’s Natural Resources Commission.

In her written testimony submitted to the state legislature, Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel Rebecca Park said crop damage from deer no longer occurs just in a few isolated areas of the state.

“Mild winters, abundant food supplies and fewer deer harvested year after year have created a perfect storm for rising deer populations. As deer numbers grow, so does the pressure placed on farmers,” she said.

Wortz said deer are now “the most expensive farm pest in the state.”

Michigan has an estimated two million deer, second only to the five million in Texas which has three times the amount of land.

Contributing to the overpopulation is a gradual decline in the number of deer hunters.

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the number of hunting licenses purchased in

the state dropped from over 870,000 in 1995 to 594,000 in 2023.

Roughly 40 percent of the current deer population due to how fast they reproduce needs to be harvested every year just to stabilize their numbers, but less than 20 percent were taken in 2023, according to MDNR.

“That level of removal is not occurring,” Wortz said.

To further illustrate the problem, Wortz said the owners of a farm in her district are now using a liquid deer repellent on their 160 acres of soybeans at a cost of \$41 per gallon plus an additional \$21 per acre for application.

Wortz said they began using the repellent after suffering noticeable crop losses in at least one of their 24-acre soybean fields.

“They watched helplessly as their 70-bushel yields of soybeans dropped to 15 to 20 bushels an acre, costing them thousands of dollars in revenue that they simply cannot afford to lose,” she said.

The foul-smelling repellent providing protection for up to two weeks during dry conditions must be applied in fields again following a rain.

According to the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, deer baiting was legal throughout Michigan prior to 2019.

However, the presence of chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis in deer led to the NRC imposing the ban on baiting in the Lower Peninsula to limit the spread of the disease.

MDNR has come out against the bill over concerns it might undermine the authority of the NRC to regulate baiting.

Wortz said the measure does nothing to stop the NRC from regulating baiting based on sound scientific practices but does prohibit the NRC from “banning it all together.”

“If they would like to come to the table and work toward a compromise and a solution my door is always open,” she said.

According to MFB, the group supports the legislation because it’s aimed at reducing crop losses and limiting the spread of disease by keeping the ban in place when deer hunting is not in season.

PARTICIPANTS BEING SOUGHT FOR JOB AND CAREER FAIR

Community partners are invited to join New Buffalo Area Schools for an inspiring day of connection and opportunity at the New Buffalo High School Job and Career Fair, which is Friday, May 1, at the New Buffalo STEAM Building.

This event is a premier opportunity for you to engage with over 180 motivated students, showcase your organization’s unique impact, and share the roadmap for success in your industry. It is more than just a recruitment event; it is a chance to mentor the next generation of professionals and meet potential future employees, who are eager to learn from your expertise.

Each participating business will be provided with a dedicated table and chairs. Props, posters, or digital displays (via Google Slides, PowerPoint, etc.) to bring an industry to life for students is encouraged.

Students will visit in small groups, allowing for meaningful, one-on-one conversations about your profession and the diverse career paths available within your field.

To reserve a spot, please contact Tracy Ripley, high school principal, at tripley@nbas.org by April 15.

For questions, reach out to the High School office at 269-469-6001. — STAFF REPORTS



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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

LEAFY GREENS IN YOUR DIET

For many people, what they know about leafy greens are the decoration that are artistically surrounding salad bars, or sprigs of greens next to your eggs that many will discard.

If you experience issues like gas or bloating after eating a big leafy green salad, it is most likely you are not eating enough greens. These greens are necessary fiber that assist in removing digestive inflammation and diverticula pockets. They help scrub and massage the lining of your digestive tract. They help loosen old trapped waste matter like yeasts, molds, bacteria and other debris that have been lying around causing discomfort. Leafy greens act as a chimney sweep for the colon.

These greens can help weakened kidneys, low hydrochloric acid, muscle cramps, osteoporosis, PMS, calcifications and so on.

Leafy greens are some of the easiest foods to prepare and eat. Rather you choose them cooked, or eaten raw, they offer an amazing amount of nutrients that are missing in our Standard American Diet. (SAD.) A deficiency in leafy greens is a reason for many health issues in our country.

Add leafy greens to your diet every day. If you do have difficulty, start with easy to digest butter leaf lettuces and spinach leaves. An easy way to incorporate leafy greens into your diet is add a couple hand fulls of the raw leaves into your smoothies. They disguise very well with a banana or other fruit added. Additionally, they are broken down in the blender and predigested so your body does not have to do the work, but you are receiving the benefit.

There are a large variety of leafy

greens. Lettuce, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, mustard greens, parsley, cilantro, arugula and so on.

Leafy greens add alkalinity to your body. They are well known for healing intestinal disorders such as GERD and H.Pylori, which is responsible for stomach ulcers. They help cleanse the lymphatic system that rids waste, heavy metals, pathogens, acids and chemicals from our bodies.

Leafy greens are also a way that our bodies receive precious and necessary mineral salts. They also offer specific enzymes and vitamins needed for life, that we would not get anywhere else naturally.

Where do you get your protein? No worries here, Leafy greens are chock full of Amino Acids, the building blocks of protein. This is bioavailable and assimilable proteins that your body can readily take up and use. Our hearts and other organs depend on leafy greens.

People commonly avoid leafy greens. The number one reason I have heard is the dislike for the earthy flavors. Some fear risks they hear on the news of foodborne illnesses like E. coli or Salmonella. Trust me, the possibility of contacting these illnesses are much higher in fish, meat or cheese, and the cross contamination of counter tops and cutting boards not fully cleaned.

Fall in love with leafy greens. They will truly change your health. Do your own research on leafy greens and any Rx you may be taking.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.



PET OF THE WEEK



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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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Katie M.

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New Buffalo students immersed in Pokagon Band of Potawatomi culture

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Long ago, Native Americans had to fight for their rights to sing and dance.

“We had to fight for that right back, so singing and dancing is a part of our culture that we haven’t just been allowed to keep, that we don’t just have in all our houses - a lot of our relationships with the communities around us have affected our ability to sing and dance lawfully,” Madeline Big Bear said during a Native American Heritage Event at the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center Tuesday, Feb. 10.

New Buffalo fifth graders and middle schoolers watched members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, who were outfitted in traditional regalia, share their history and culture through spoken words, drumming and dancing.

Accompanying the dancers was a “big drum,” which Big Bear said is an example of a drum that’s used in tribal nations.

Each style of dance has evolved and has its own teachings behind the different styles, she added.

Men’s Woodland Traditional, the “oldest style of dance in North America,” Women’s Northern Traditional and Women’s Southern Traditional were some of the dances that students saw performed that day. Some dances, Big Bear said, have been gifted to them from tribes near and far.

A Potawatomi woman, Big Bear said that The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi people hold her papers, or documentation.

“We (Native Americans) have a whole lot of documentation that talks about our past but we have a lot of documentation

because we are a government so we have a whole lot of dealings with communities like the school districts and the communities that we live in here and then we have a whole lot of dealings with the state,” she said.

There are 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States. Each tribe is a separate government, which has treaties with the United States.

“So, for as long as the United States has been the United States, we Native American people, Pokagon people, Potawatomi people included, have been in government relationships with what became the United States and has become more and more states all the way until Hawaii and Alaska became states – so our papers are held by the Pokagon Band and our papers represent all our tribes that have these dealings, these contracts, these treaties,” Big Bear said.

In Michigan, there are 12 federally recognized tribes. Three of them belong to the main tribes: Potawatomi (Bodewadmi/Bodowadomi), Chippewa (Ojibwe/Ojibwa) and Odawa (Ottawa).

Big Bear said all 574 tribes recognize powwow, which is a “form of cultural engagement,” and all 50 states have some kind of powwow event in their Native American communities or where they host Native American communities.

The “powwow dancers,” Big Bear said, were adorned with headpieces as well as regalia on the back and ones that are specifically designed for the sides.

Big Bear said that there’s “no imagery of our people here in Michigan” because cameras came after they were already in treaties

that removed them from there. Pictures found in textbooks are those of tribes that are further out west.

“This is what we look like in the Great Lakes, this is what Potawatomi people look like - we can look at each other and know we are people who are direct ties to the Great Lakes, we know we are people who are tied to the plants and animals that all these dancers have as a part of their regalia,” she said.

Big Bear said the outlawing of dancing can be traced back to 1838, which was the last removal in this area of the Potawatomi people.

“They weren’t saying, ‘You can’t exist and be humans,’ they were saying, ‘You can’t exist as tribal people - you can’t have your own family in form of government and if want that, you have go out west, you have to go west of the Mississippi,” she said, adding that this also affected Native American dress, language and religion.

This changed in the 1970s, though.

“Laws came about that that protected us that said, ‘In the United States, you legally can speak your language, you can engage in your cultural ways and beliefs because we’re 200 years past removal, we don’t want to be responsible for the ending of any Indigenous nations,” Big Bear said.

The event was a part of the Middle School Experience Field Trip, during which New Buffalo Middle School schedules a field trip to give students an experience connected to the curriculum.



2025 Potawatomi Wshkabewes Gabriel Loonsfoot, representing the Potawatomi Band of Indians



Madeline Big Bear



Members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi display their regalia



A dancer performs a Men's Woodland Traditional dance



Members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

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